

Trees on Maine Street

∞ The Project Canopy Bulletin ∞



March/April 2012

"He that plants trees loves others beside himself."

- Thomas Fuller

Forests and Water Quality

According to the USDA Forest Service's Forests, Water, and People report, "Forests provide the best land cover when it comes to protecting soil, moderating streamflow, supporting healthy aquatic systems, and sustaining good water quality." Forests can be managed for many values including commercial forest products, while providing clean water for Maine's residents and business needs.

One of the best things woodland owners can do to protect water quality, among many woodland values, is work with a forester to sustainably manage their woodlot. Often this means developing a plan for the land, and then carrying out the recommended activities in a sound manner. There are several programs in place to help woodland owners move forward. The Be WoodsWISE Program, administered by the Maine Forest Service, offers cost-share assistance for landowners to hire consulting foresters to develop Woodland Resource Action Plans (WRAPs) which provide concise descriptions of current stand conditions coupled with a prioritized list of actions to steward the forest while reaching personal goals and objectives. More information can be found at <http://www.maine.gov/doc/mfs/fpm/wwi/wwi.htm>, or by contacting the MFS Landowner Outreach Forester at 287-8430.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) also administers programs that provide financial and technical assistance to non-industrial private forest owners. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) are the primary sources of funding for more detailed forest management plans, as well as forestry practices such as thinning, pruning, planting and trail construction and maintenance. For more information check with your local USDA Service Center. To find your local USDA Service center, visit <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?agency=nrsc>, or

call the Maine NRCS State office at 207-990-9100, Extension 3

[Project Canopy](#) helps Maine towns and communities develop long-term community tree and forestry programs to maximize on the benefits those trees and public woodlands provide. The program is a partnership of the [Maine Forest Service](#) and [GrowSmart Maine](#), and together is providing important information to help municipal woodland owners maintain the health of their trees and woodlands to protect water quality. The Project Canopy Assistance program provides financial assistance for towns, schools and land trusts to develop WoodsWISE forestry plans for publicly owned or accessed woodlands, plant and maintain trees, and develop street tree inventory and management plans. Water quality improvement projects can include the development of demonstration forests to highlight exemplary forest practices, implementation of Low Impact Development (LID) projects that include trees and green infrastructure to treat stormwater runoff, assessment of street and park tree populations to determine where plantings could make a direct and positive impact on water quality, and more. More information can be found at <http://www.maine.gov/doc/mfs/projectcanopy/>, or by contacting the Project Canopy Coordinator at 287-4987.

Of all aspects of timber harvesting, stream crossings have the greatest potential to negatively impact water quality. In order to minimize the potential impact, the Maine Forest Service has temporary, portable skidder bridges available for loan during harvesting operations. As funding allows, cost-share may also be available for the purchase of portable bridges. More information can be found at http://www.maine.gov/doc/mfs/fpm/water/skidder_bridge.html, or by contacting the Water Resources Forester at 287-1073 for more information.

PROJECT CANOPY

assists communities and nonprofit, grassroots organizations in building self-sustaining urban and community forestry programs with strong local support.

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News and Updates

Financing Stormwater Retrofits in Philadelphia and Beyond

A new report, "Financing Stormwater Retrofits in Philadelphia and Beyond," uses Philadelphia as a test case to explore how billions of dollars in private investment can be directed toward stormwater retrofits, saving cities money on stormwater management costs while cleaning waterways and greening communities. It explains how Philadelphia's stormwater billing and credit framework lays groundwork for innovative financing approaches, borrowed from the energy efficiency finance sphere, that draw large-scale private investment to cover the capital costs of "green infrastructure" retrofits on private property. The report provides recommendations for local and state officials, as well as private firms, to stimulate such investment.

The full report is online here: <http://www.nrdc.org/water/stormwater-financing.asp>.



MAINE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Maine Forest Service
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Forest Policy and Management Division
We help you make informed decisions about Maine forests



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"April comes like an idiot, babbling and strewing flowers."

- Edna St. Vincent Millay

Thinning on Display

By Patty Cormier, District Forester, Maine Forest Service

On a brisk winter day last month at the "Thinning Your Woodlot" workshop held on Scot and Jon Bubier's woodlot in Phillips, I was reminded how valuable these small woodlots are to us all, whether they are off the beaten path or right in the middle of town. And even more valuable are the caretakers of these lots. I'm hoping the 41 loggers, foresters and landowners in attendance thought so too.

As a society, only good comes from encouraging good woodland stewards. The lot we were on has been in the family for five generations. It was palpable the strong attachment that Scot and his son Ryan have for the land. As they were describing all the good tending they have done through the years, references to the family and community connections always came up. Scot and Ryan love the work they have done on the lot so much, they recently started their own business called Forest Improvement Services. They have been working for other woodlot owners since starting their business, mostly on thinning and pruning projects that other landowners are doing through the Natural Resource Conservation Service, or NRCS. The Bubiers have also done many of these NRCS projects on their own land such as pruning, mast tree release, pre-commercial thinning of hardwood, trails, a forest road, and wildlife habitat practices; which we all got a tour of. They realize that they are just long range gardeners, except their garden grows over many years, not months.

I walk with many landowners to hopefully help them realize what an asset they have on their woodlots, and it is always refreshing to walk with those who are already ahead of the game. Whether they realize it or not, (I suspect they do!) they are a big part of what makes their community a better place.



Ryan and Scot Bubier

"They are beautiful in their peace, they are wise in their silence. They will stand after we are dust. They teach us, and we tend them.
- Galeain ip Altiem MacDunelmor

***Acer saccharum* -- Sugar Maple**

Sugar Maple is the most common maple in the east and is a hard-wooded tree with a moderate to slow growth rate. The tree will be 60 to 80 feet tall at maturity in landscape plantings. Sugar

Maple grows about 1 foot each year in most soils but is sensitive to reflected heat, and to drought, turning the leaves brown (scorch) along their edges. Leaf scorch from dry soil is often evident in areas where the root system is restricted to a small soil area, such as a street tree planting. It is more drought-tolerant in open areas where the roots can proliferate into a large soil space.

The limbs of Sugar Maple are usually strong and not susceptible to wind damage. The bark forms attractive bright gray plates which stand out especially during the winter. Roots are often shallow and reach the surface at an early age, even in sandy soil. Plant in an area where grass below it will not need to be mowed so the roots will not be damaged by the mower. A variety of birds use the tree for food, nesting and cover and the fruits are especially popular with squirrels. About 40 gallons of sap are required to produce 1 gallon of maple syrup from the Sugar Maple tree.



Low Impact Development / Green Infrastructure Design Competitions: A Tool for Encouraging Innovation



Tuesday, March 20, 2012, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. EST

Low Impact Development (LID) and Green Infrastructure (GI) practices have been proven to improve the sustainability of development and to provide dramatic benefits in water quality, natural habitat expansion and recovery, and storm water runoff reduction while increasing quality of life and the livability of communities. These practices have been wrongly characterized by the traditional development community as costly with limited effectiveness. To advance the use of these highly effective practices and provide a hands-on understanding of their true capabilities, cost, and performance, the Houston Land and Water Sustainability Forum (HLWSF) utilized a unique and effective approach—an LID design competition.

Mr. Robert Adair, founder of the HLWSF, will describe why and how a competition can be a unique, powerful tool to drive widespread adoption, adaptation and implementation of LID. He will use the 2009/2010 competition to illustrate key elements for planning and conducting a successful event and strategies to capitalize on momentum created by the competition. Mr. Ross Gordon will provide the perspective of a winning competitor in the Houston competition and a similar competition held in Austin, Texas. He will share his efforts to replicate the benefits of the competition in other locations. Mr. Seth Brown will describe the Water Environment Federation's (WEF) role and commitment in assisting other communities' use of this tool and introduce WEF's upcoming 3-part webinar series on the nuts and bolts of a successful design competition using the Houston model. This webcast is targeted to professionals interested in pursuing green streets, urban green infrastructure, and green jobs as part of an overall integrated community or watershed plan.

You must register in advance to attend this webcast. Register at:

<http://mp118885.cdn.mediaplatform.com/118885/ml/mp/4000/5345/5417/13501/Lobby/default.htm>

Questions?

Please contact Amber Marriott at
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"Science has never drummed up quite as effective a tranquilizing agent as a sunny spring day."

- W. Earl Hall

Find us on the web at projectcanopy.maine.gov, on Facebook at [facebook.com/ProjectCanopy](https://www.facebook.com/ProjectCanopy) or on twitter [@ProjectCanopy](https://twitter.com/ProjectCanopy)

Community Wrap-up

News from good people doing good things

*"Spring is sooner recognized by plants than by men."
- Chinese Proverb*

i-Tree Streets: Keeping it Simple, Affordable and Useful

Have you wanted to complete a street tree inventory in your community, but have been a bit nervous about trying to learn new software? Choosing the correct tools to use for data collection, archiving and analysis can be a daunting task. Well, over the past few years, the i-Tree Streets tool has undergone many modifications to make it simple to install on your computer, easy to use in the field for collecting information and even easier to analyze the data and produce results that can be used to tell a story about the street trees in your community.

A special upcoming 3-hour instructional session, "i-Tree Streets: Keeping it Simple, Affordable and Useful" is scheduled for April 4, 2012 from 9:00 AM – Noon (Eastern). This session, presented in cooperation with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation will feature an opportunity to focus on the completion of a simple, easily implementable street tree inventory in your community. The workshop will feature Mollie Freilicher, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation, Anne Cumming of the USDA Forest Service and Dave Bloniarz, USDA Forest Service. For those in the New England area, the internet session will be followed by an In-Person Networking Session in Springfield, Massachusetts from Noon-1:30 PM (Eastern).

This session will cover a series of topics including:

- i-Tree Streets basics
- Download, install and understand the software components
- Using a PDA or handheld GPS unit
- How to use the new pest detection feature, IPED
- Analyzing and reporting data using i-Tree Streets.

Attendees will learn what equipment is compatible with i-Tree, how to incorporate GIS information into Streets, and how to use i-Tree Streets to conduct an inventory—from selecting and customizing fields for collection to importing inventory data from a PDA or other device into i-Tree Streets for analysis. Attendees will leave with an understanding of the tools needed to conduct a tree inventory in their community using i-Tree Streets.

PRE-REGISTRATION for both the web session and the in-person session is required, in order to provide the best experience for attendees. Please visit <http://www.unri.org/events/itree042012/> for more information and to register for the events.

To read the latest Forests for Maine's Future Newsletter

<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs048/1101695341803/>

Registration Now Open for Reinventing Older Communities Conference

The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia and its co-sponsors will host a conference on "Reinventing Older Communities: Building Resilient Cities" from May 9-11 at Penn's Landing in Philadelphia. The goal is to consider building resilient cities, with a particular focus on smaller cities that were once manufacturing centers. [Visit this website](#) for updated information about the conference and how to register.

Calendar

March

9-12 Portland Flower show, Portland, ME
13 UMASS Tree conference, Amherst, MA
15 - 18th Rope Splicing Workshop, [Fids & Fibers by the Fireside](#)
16 Green Design, Good Design: Historic Preservation and Smart Energy Solutions, Bath Savings Institution, 105 Front Street, Bath, [mdf.org](#)
16 Fruit Tree Grafting Workshop, [Fruit Tree Grafting with Mark Fulford](#)
17 PORTLAND TRAILS Land Stewardship Program Workshop, 9-12. 305 Commercial St Portland
27—April 14 Trees, Weeds and Roads Workshops, Statewide. <http://www.maine.gov/mdot/docs/TreesWeedsFlyer2012.pdf>

May

5 MAA Climbing Competition [9th Annual Maine Tree Climbing Competition](#)
19 - 20 NECISA Climbing Competition [New England Tree Climbing Competition](#)
21-27 Maine Arbor Week
Contact us by the 15th of each month to get your community's event on the calendar

*"Now is the time of the illuminated woods ... when every leaf glows like a tiny lamp."
- J. Burroughs*

